

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:FRG AND DUTCH QUESTIONS ON AIR MANPOWER IN MBFR

REF: (A) USNATO 151, (B) STATE 2G3866, (C) STATE 8358

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1. MISSION MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO THE FRG

QUESTIONS WHICH ARE KEYED TO PARAS REF A, AS WELL AS ON
REF D AND ON RESPONSE TO UK QUESTIONS (SEPTTEL)

A. CONCERNING PART IB (2)

WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT OUR FOCUS REMAINS ON
EASTERN GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. OUR PROPOSAL (REF C) WOULD
EXPLICITLY RESTRICT THE AMOUNT OF AIR MANPOWER THE EAST
COULD REDUCE. IT WOULD NOT DIMINISH AND COULD EVEN INCREASE
THE EASTERN GROUND MANPOWER REDUCTION ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.
WHILE OUR NEW PROPOSAL IS MORE FORTHCOMING THAN THE CURRENT
ALLIED POSITION, IT IS STILL CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE
EASTERN "COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH."

B. CONCERNING PART II A

OUR STATEMENT REGARDING THE CONSTRAINT PLACED ON THE WARSAW
PACT FORCES BY OUR PROPOSAL IS SIMPLY THAT IT WOULD PLACE
SOME LIMIT ON FORCES THAT ARE NOT NOW AS SOPHISTICATED AS
NATO FORCES, ARE IMPROVING, AND ARE NOT CONSTRAINED. THE
MANPOWER DATA PROVIDED FOR US AIRCRAFT INCLUDES GROUND
CREWS. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THE WEAPONRY OF THE NEW
AIRCRAFT WILL REQUIRE ANY MORE MANPOWER THAN THAT NOW
REQUIRED FOR THE SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS AND HEAVY
LOADINGS OF THE CURRENT AIRCRAFT INVENTORY.

C. CONCERNING PART III C

THE OPERATIONAL AVAILABILITY OF TACTICAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE REDUCED. THE UNITED STATES MADE
THIS STATEMENT AFTER A FULL REVIEW AND WE HAVE SINCE
PROVIDED FURTHER ASSURANCES ON THAT SCORE. THE QUESTION
OF WARNING TIME HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN MC-161,
AND THE SGTA STUDY USED SEVERAL DIFFERENT WARNING
ASSUMPTIONS. OF COURSE, NO ONE KNOWS HOW MUCH WARNING
WOULD BE AVAILABLE, BUT WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT SHORTER
PACT BUILD-UP ASSUMPTIONS THAN WERE USED IN THE US
ANALYSIS (AND THE CONSEQUENTLY SHORTER WARNING TIMES)
WOULD DECREASE THE SIZE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASSUMED
PACT THREAT. AS WE HAVE REPLIED TO UK QUESTIONS (SEPTTEL)
ON CIVILIANIZATION, WE WOULD NOT SEEK A PROVISION THAT
WOULD PROHIBIT THE USE OF NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN
SUPPORT FUNCTIONS. HOST-NATION REQUIREMENTS WOULD NOT
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NECESSARILY BE INCREASED, ALTHOUGH WE DO BELIEVE THAT AN
OVERALL REVIEW OF RATIONALIZATION POTENTIAL IS DESIRABLE
WITH OR WITHOUT MBFR. THE EFFECTS OF REDUCING SUPPORT
FORCES AND THE UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE UNIT WOULD HAVE TO BE
DETERMINED BY WEIGHING THEM AGAINST THE DIMINISHED
OPPOSING FORCES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ADVERSE EFFECT
ON THE THEATRE BALANCE WOULD RESULT. QUITE THE CONTRARY,
WE BELIEVE THAT THE REDUCTION OF THESE RAPIDLY REINTRO-

DUCABLE USAF FORCES IN RETURN FOR SOVIET FORCES COULD
IMPROVE THE BALANCE.

2. RE: THE NETHERLANDS QUESTIONS

A. THE US HAS BEGUN A NEW STUDY OF SOVIET AIR MAN-
POWER MAN-TO-AIRCRAFT RATIOS. RESULTS WILL BE FORWARDED.

B. AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT IS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO VERI-
FICATION THAN SOME GROUND EQUIPMENT; THEREFORE, AIR MAN-
POWER LEVELS CAN BE INFERRED WITH HIGHER CONFIDENCE THAN
CAN SOME GROUND MANPOWER LEVELS.

C. ALTHOUGH THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY, ONE
APPROACH WOULD BE TO SEEK A NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISION
THAT WOULD PROHIBIT "CIVILIANIZATION" OF COMBAT FUNCTIONS
(RATHER THAN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS), BUT ONE WHICH WOULD NOT
PROHIBIT NATO FROM FURTHERING ITS CURRENT RELIANCE UPON
NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN SUPPORT ROLES. HERE THE
DISTINCTION WOULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN A "CIVILIAN" PILOT AND

CIVILIAN COOK OR POSTAL CLERK.

D. THE ABILITY TO EMPLOY AIRCRAFT FROM AREAS
PERIPHERAL TO THE NGA CURRENTLY FAVORS THE WEST. NATO HAS
EXTENSIVE AIRCRAFT AND AIRFIELDS ON THE PERIPHERY AND HAS
SUPERIOR AERIAL REFUELING CAPABILITY, ASSUMING ADEQUATE
TANKER AVAILABILITY. MOST IMPORTANTLY IN THIS REGARD,
MOST NATO AIRCRAFT HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER COMBAT RADIUS
THAN THE PACT'S. THE MAJORITY OF PACT AIRCRAFT ON THE
PERIPHERY COULD NOT OPERATE OVER THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN
BATTLEFRONT WITHOUT FORWARD DEPLOYMENT. BUT MOST NATO
AIRCRAFT ON THE PERIPHERY DO HAVE SUFFICIENT RANGE TO

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STRIKE ON THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN BATTLEFRONT WITHOUT
DEPLOYMENT. KISSINGER

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